equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.

(iv) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehended and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(v) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

(vi) Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

(vii) A National Wildlife Action Plan 2002-16 was adopted by the Indian Board for Wild life under the chairmanship of Prime Minister in January 2002. The plan outlines the strategy for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

(viii) Government of India is a signatory to many international conventions concerning biodiversity conservation and control of illegal trade in wild flora and fauna.

(ix) Bilateral agreements have been signed with Nepal and Republic of China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.

(x) A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

(xi) Action has been taken for implementing the urgent recommendation of Tiger Task Force and creation of National Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.

Modification of Coastal Regulation Zone guidelines

2949. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any proposal/demand to modify Coastal Regulation Zone guidelines for the coastal areas in country to give

a boost to the tourism industry and/or for the purpose of meeting genuine needs of the people to meet housing needs;

(b) whether the Tourism Ministry has taken any view in that matter for the consideration of the Government;

(c) the proposals and their details received, area-wise; and

(d) the details of the various proposal under examination and/or decided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has received proposals forwarded by the Ministry of Tourism for considering amendments to the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 1991 for boosting tourism in Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Island.

(c) In the above proposals the Ministry of Tourism has endorsed the request made by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration and Lakshadweep Administration for reducing the No Development Zone (NDZ) to 50 metres and 5 metres from the High Tide Line respectively.

(d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has already amended the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 *vide* S.O. 838 (E) dated 24.7.2003 reducing the No Development Zone to 50 metres in identified stretches of Andaman & Nicobar Islands for promoting tourism based on Integrated Coastal Zone Management study. The No Development Zone on Lakshadweep is decided depending on the size of the Island.

Uniformity in criterion to ascertain pollution level

†2950. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no uniformity in the work carried out, so far, after fixing the criteria to ascertain the air pollution and water pollution, and for fixing its level;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the gap between the contaminated and treated water is widening as the legal accountability for providing clear potable water has not been fixed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.